

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT C. "BOBBY" DUNCAN

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, May 30, 1996, was an important day in the small McCreary hamlet of Silerville. Also called Strunk, the collection of scattered homes and former commercial buildings is located between Toeward and State Line. Robert C. "Bobby" Duncan completed his fiftieth year in the general merchandise business at the corner of Old U.S. 27 and State Rt. 1470. That day, his anniversary passed like most of the previous 15,500 days—closed only on Sunday and Christmas. Local residents stopped to buy gas, milk, bread, and hardware, and to discuss current events.

When Duncan's General Store opened in the spring of 1946, Harry Truman was President. Republican Simeon Willis was the Governor of Kentucky. Highway U.S. 27 was a major north-south route from Florida to Michigan. Young soldiers came home on the Greyhound bus, but often would have to take U.S. 27 north to find work. As the country recovered from World War II, tourists were stopping for gas and refreshments.

Change has been a constant requirement for Duncan's General Store. The building, however, looks remarkably like it did in 1946. The gray, two-story, tin-roofed building with its pot-bellied coal stove has not changed. Change has occurred with the needs of customers. Although Bobby Duncan has never changed locations, advertised or conducted a sale he is a perceptive marketer. He adapted as service stations sprang up to cater to travelers and as Interstate 75 diverted thousands of motorists 30 miles away. When futurists predicted that supermarkets would destroy mom and pop groceries, he shifted his primary product lines. Dry goods from Shaw shoes to Big Ben overalls were replaced by the new consumer products flooding America. Groceries carried out in Campbell soup paper boxes were reduced to make way for hardware and specialty items for mining and logging. Today, convenience items and gas have reemerged along with hard-to-find items. Former State Senator and merchant O.O. Duncan once said, "sooner or later everyone in the county goes to Bobby's store to find items that no one else has."

For three generations children from Strunk, Marsh Creek, Murphy Ridge, and Pine Knot have enjoyed trips to Bobby Duncan's. His endless patience with a 6-year-old customer who has a quarter to spend on mixed candy has ensured that successive generations know the joy of bon bons, rock candy, and orange drops mixed in a small brown paper sack. Nickel RC's and cakes are not available today, but the price was never as important as the considerations and kindness shown to tiny, often barefoot customers.

Adults frequent Duncan's store for many reasons. The store provides a cohesiveness for the community. Sitting on the front porch on the old church pew or on the nail keg next to the warm fire, smelling kerosene fumes or pickled pig's feet, you feel that the world has slowed. The conversations of the current generation of Murphy's, Ball's, Bairds, Trammells, are important. They come to the store to tell their stories, to inquire about their neighbors, or to express their views on political issues. They come to listen and to be heard. Bobby Duncan serves as a tax adviser, building consultant, agronomist, scribe, lawyer, minister, funeral singer, arbitrator, and friend. His services are often more important than his wares.

I don't know how many years Duncan's General Store will survive. A business that sells shoes and saddles, hair pins and horse-shoes, Tide and tires, feed and seed, with true personal service is unique in today's world. Congratulations on a successful 50 years, Bobby Duncan.

A TRIBUTE TO LANGDON "DON" OWEN

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Langdon "Don" Owen, who will be honored at a special event on July 19, 1996, when an endowed fellowship in water science and policy will be established in his name at the University of California, Irvine.

During his 3-plus-year career as one of the premier minds in water resources policy in the State of California, Don utilized every scientific and policy tool available to sort out the complex and often urgent issues in the State's long and troubled water history. Environmental impact studies, cost-benefit analyses, long-term planning, multiple-discipline approaches, creative problem solving, using reclaimed water as barrier to sea water intrusion, building consensus through innovative solutions and persuasion—Don had the capability and the creativity to use all of these scientific techniques and nontraditional methodologies.

Of his many career highlights, three merit particular attention for their foresight and the lessons they offer our great State as we continue to grapple with difficult water decisions: Bay Barrier Investigation, which led to the rejection of a 1954 proposal to close off the San Francisco Bay from the sea; the Water Factory, the landmark advanced wastewater treatment facility which provides reclaimed water for salt water barrier and ground water basin replenishment; and the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, which brought three warring water agencies together to create a lasting partnership toward guaranteeing water quality and supply for the region.

I remember Don best as an instrumental participant in the efforts to end the water wars between southern and northern California.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Langdon "Don" Owen, a remarkable man who has made lasting and positive contributions to the California environment and who has taught, and will continue to teach, important lessons in environmental science, creativity, innovation, and cooperation. I can think of no one better suited to represent a fellowship that will educate and empower the next generation of our environmental water scientists that Don Owen. He is truly one of the crown jewels of California, and Orange County and UC Irvine are fortunate to be associated with him.

THE QUEENS BOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY—SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR 100 YEARS

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today so that this body may take note of a very special organization in my district—the Queens Borough Public Library. This organization celebrates the anniversary of its founding this year. I wish to congratulate them and offer my voice in support of their tireless efforts to educate and serve the residents of Queens Borough.

As I have told many of you before, Queens is a very special place to me and to those who live there. Its nearly two million residents make up the most ethnically diverse community in the United States. For years, the face of Queens has been the face of the many cultures of the world.

In that vein, the Queens Library system reaches out to this microcosm of the American mosaic and provides not just books, but citizenship education classes, English as a second language [ESL] classes, job training, and access to the information superhighway. In fact, the Queens Library offers over 18,000 programs to the community at large. Sixty-three facilities scattered throughout the borough are wellsprings of learning from which the community benefits.

On top of all this, the Queens Library is adding an international resource center [IRC] to the redesigned Flushing Branch, which will enable it to showcase many of the cultures reflected in the borough population. Using the latest technology, this unique facility will provide cultural background, business information, and educational materials on the varied peoples of the world.

With its expanded facilities, the Queens Library will be able to host even more high quality exhibitions. For example, last year, it presented an excellent exhibit with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities [NEH] on Lewis Latimer, a 19th-century inventor, and on Korean-style printing with movable metal type—a technique perfected in Asia well before Gutenberg and his printing press.

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